(f) if so, how many public sector undertakings have so far made profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON (a) No, Sir. Government have not decided that it may not be able to provide additional fund for Public Sector and the Eighth Five Year Plan is under finalisation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir. As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, sickness has been defined as "sick industrial company" means an inudstry (being a company registered for not less than seven years) which has, at the end of any financial year accumulated losses equal to, or exceeding its entire net worth, and has also suffered cash losses in such financial year, and the financial year immediately preceding such financial year. Only those enterprises which could be classified under the above definition shall be considered as sick as per the above Act.

(f) 131 Central Public Sector Enterprises have made profits during 1989–90, upto which period only the information is available.

Demands of Sangharsh Samiti Mumbai

4458. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the demands of the Seva Vetan (Gratuity) Sangharsh Samiti, Mumbai (Bombay) forwarded to them by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, New Delhi on the August 1, 1991;

(b) if so, the demand made by the Sangharsh Samiti; and

(c) the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No representation containing the demands of the Seva Vetan (Gratuity) Sanghrash Samiti, Mumbai (Bombay) has been received in the Ministry of Labour.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Review of Drug Policy

4459. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Committee of Secretaries to review the Drug Policy;

(b) if so, the constitution of the Committee and its terms of reference;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee; and

(e) if not, the time by when the report is likely to b submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e). The Government had constituted a Standing Committee to consider all matters connected with the review of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987 and the representations made on various policy issues concerning DPCO, 1987 including inclusion/exclusion of drugs in the Scheduled categories. The Committee comprised of Secretary (C&PC) as

Chairman and Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, DGHS, and Senior Officers of DGTD, BICP, CSIR, Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow etc. The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

Scope of Biotechnology

4460. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great scope to use our bio–technology to increase agricultural production in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to utilise and improve our bio–technology to raise agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Biotechnology has a very important role to play for increasing agricultural productivity.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology has initiated several focussed R&D programmes in crop biotechnology since March 1989. Th Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been closely associated with these programmes. These programmes aim to evolve plant breeding aids and pre–breeding genetic stocks to accelerate existing plant breeding efforts. The various programmes are:

(i) Four nationally important crops e.g rice, mustard, chickpea and wheat are being addressed with genetical and biotechnological approaches to develop pest and disease resistance high yielding varieties.

(ii) Six centres for plant molecular biology (CPMB) have been set up since March 1990 in the existing institutions throughout the country for generating biotechnology research capability as well as trained manpower. Each CPMB is entrusted with a few crops having problem oriented basic and applied research programmes.

(iii) Department of Biotechnology has initiated a network programme on biological control of pets and diseases under integrated pest management.

(iv) Department of Biotechnology has launched the oil palm demonstration project in the states of Maharashtra, Andra Pradesh and Karnataka. These projects aim to demonstrate the feasibility of oil palm cultivation under irrigated condition over an area of the about 1000 has in each state.

(v) The tissue culture cardamom demonstration product project was launched by the Department in 1989.

(vi) The Department of Biotechnology has launched a major programme on technology development and demonstration of Biofertilizers.

(viii) Field activities and demonstration programmes of many of the projects are well advanced and the results can be seen during the VIII Plan period.

Performance of Industrial Sector

4461. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: